

WASHINGTON – Reservists mobilized for one day or more for Operation Allied Force may wear the Armed Forces Reserve Medal with the "M" device. Those who volunteer for this mission also qualify for the medal and device if their orders cite that duty is in support of Allied Force.

Charles Cragin, acting assistant secretary of defense for reserve affairs, issued a letter May 11 to his counterparts in the Air Force, Army, Navy and Coast Guard, outlining who is eligible to wear the medal and "M" device.

To qualify for the "M" device, reservists must have performed active-duty service in support of a call-up or a designated contingency operation on or after Aug. 1, 1990. In addition to Allied Force, the contingencies are the Persian Gulf War, Somalia (Restore Hope), Haiti (Uphold Democracy), Bosnia (Joint Endeavor/Guard/Forge), and the recent Persian Gulf call-up. Even if an operation is not officially named but it results in an involuntary call to active duty, the "M" device is awarded. Only one "M" device may be awarded for each specific contingency operation.

President Clinton authorized a Presidential Selected Reserve Call-up on Sept. 15, 1994, for humanitarian operations in Haiti; Dec. 8, 1995, for Bosnia peacekeeping; Feb. 24, 1998, for Southwest Asia operations; and April 27, 1999, for operations in Kosovo. The Bosnia and Southwest Asia PSRCs are still in effect. Members of Air Force Reserve Command were called up in May to support Operations Northern and Southern Watch in Southwest Asia.

Mobilized reservists don't have to deploy overseas to qualify for the medal and "M" device.

If they have not been mobilized, reservists become eligible to wear the Armed Forces Reserve Medal after completing a total of 10 years honorable service within a period of 12 consecutive years. Any service time in a regular component of the Armed Forces is excluded. The service time also cannot include service for which the Naval Reserve Medal or the Marine Corps Reserve Medal has been or may be awarded.

A bronze hourglass indicates the first 10 years of service, a silver hourglass the second 10-year period and a gold hourglass the third 10-year period. After completing the fourth 10-year period, a bronze hourglass follows a gold hourglass. No more than one Armed Forces Reserve Medal may be awarded to a person.

The "M" device or the appropriate hourglass is centered on the ribbon if only one is authorized. For a reservist who has been awarded the "M" device two or more times, an Arabic numeral indicating the number of times follows the device. If eligible for an hourglass and the "M" device, the hourglass goes on the wearer's right.

Any question concerning the AFRM with "M" device can be directed to HQ ARPC/DPRFQ at 1-800-520-0102 or via e-mail arpc.dprfqdl@arpc.afrc.af.mil.
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